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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

Monday, April 29, 1940.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "THE 1940 SEASON IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS." Information from the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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The call of the out-of-doors becomes very insistent about this time of year. As spring advances, vacation plans shape up. And in 38 of our 48 states these plans are likely to be directed toward some of the National Forests, where summer recreation facilities are open to all who have transportation for reaching them.

Within the past few years much work has been done on roads and trails within the National Forests, as well as on the improved highways that make the forests more accessible than they used to be. Forest Service officers in charge of these publicly owned natural resources welcome persons who want to investigate the recreational possibilities offered by the National Forests near their homes.

There is no fee or charge for entering a National Forest, nor for the use of camping and picnicking areas. In some cases you might meet with small charges for special services such as bathhouse facilities or firewood supplies. Campers supply their own tents and other camping equipment. If you are vacationing in a trailer, you will find trailer accommodations at many camp grounds. All camps have certain rules for sanitation, fire safety and courtesy to other users, but these rules are only what well-mannered people practice everywhere. In most National Forests, the State game laws for hunting and fishing apply.

Families living in one part of the country who want to see another region often plan to make stops in the National Forests as part of their vacation tour. A number of the largest National Forests are located in the western states, but there are also a good many in the northeast, the Appalachian range, the South,

and near the Great Lakes. Before visiting one of these forests you can get information about it from the forest supervisor. If you don't know where he is located, write to the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C.

Suppose your projected trip takes you through Arizona. You might like to visit the Coconino National Forest for a few days. Special features of this forest are Mormon Lake, the San Francisco peaks, 12,000 feet high, and numerous ancient ruins and scenic drives. You can also take saddle and pack trips and try big game and turkey hunting in the proper seasons;

California's National Forests have so many varied and impressive features and there are so many of them you will find it hard to decide which to visit. Perhaps Los Padres National Forest is near your route. This forest has about 300 improved camp and picnic grounds, as well as commercial cabin resorts. The southern, or Santa Barbara section is rich in Spanish historical lore. There are rugged mountains, scenic highways, and wild areas. In all of the western National Forests you can hike, ride, take pack trips, or hunt in season.

In the Monterey or northern division of Los Padres Forest it is warm and dry in summer, and inviting to sleep out under the stars. One of the most famous scenic roads in California is in Los Padres National Forest and borders the Pacific Ocean for over 130 miles.

But your interest may lie in some other part of the country. If you head for Wisconsin, you'll find its Chequamegon National Forest literally a land of lakes. There are immense stands of pine, spruce, and balsam trees. In the lakes you'll fish for muskellunge pike and bass, and in season hunt deer, grouse, and ducks. Canoeing and swimming attract lovers of water sports.

Several ranges of the Appalachian system are in National Forests, in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia, particularly. Kentucky has the Cumberland National Forest where people flock to see the Red River Gorge,

Sky Bridge and some smaller natural bridges, as well as mineral springs and limestone caves. There's the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail for the stout of limb; and the usual game hunting and fishing.

Virginia's George Washington National Forest includes the Shenandoah Mountains, and runs over the state line into West Virginia. A few miles across the historic Shenandoah Valley there's the Monongahela National Forest, in West Virginia. Visitors seek out the spectacular Seneca Rocks on the Seneca Indian Trail, the botanically curious Cranberry Glades, and explore uncharted caves for themselves.

In Pennsylvania the Allegheny National Forest takes in the mountains so-named an Indian reservation, an oil field, and considerable old growth forest with excellent trout fishing and exceptional deer hunting in season. This forest attracts many eastern city people for winter sports later in the year.

In New England you'll find the soft beauty of Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest and New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest is very different from the majestic grandeur of the great western mountain ranges with their huge trees or strange natural rock formations. Trails are less arduous, whether on foot or on horseback, and there is a restfulness and tranquillity about the scenery that appeals to many.

Florida's four National Forests offer scenery of an entirely different character. The country is relatively flat, and there are many small streams and lakes. Pines and cypresses, hung with Spanish moss, tropical palms, and clear, cool streams invite visitors who want a leisurely holiday. Most of them also like boating, swimming, fishing, maybe hunting, in season, for quail, doves, turkeys, or deer. There are a million and a half acres of National Forest lands in Florida, and they have been the background of four centuries of colorful history.

So, whether your vacation plans lean toward leisurely or strenuous out-of-doors activities, toward nature study or history or just plain loafing, you can find a National Forest that meets your interests, and enjoy a family vacation for but little more than the cost of the gasoline to take you there and back.

